



Email from Mr Maltby

Thursday 31st December 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

I am taking the unusual step of communicating with you during the school holiday following the government's announcement yesterday about changes to the start of the new term.

At the end of term, I advised you that the only year group in school for the week commencing 4th January 2021 would be Year 11. Following yesterday's announcement, Year 11 will now be expected to remain at home throughout next week unless they receive further communication from the school to be on site.

I also communicated that children of key/critical workers, alongside those identified by school leaders to be a priority for onsite support, should continue to come to school from 4th January. This still remains the case. All students who are expected in the school from Monday will receive further communication from Mr Anstee-Parry before the end of this week.

Remote learning will be provided for all students next week. No student should view next week as an extended holiday. We will be delivering additional laptops and devices to strengthen wi-fi to identified homes from Monday. We have strong contingency plans in place and we have also used feedback from all students to enhance the experience of remote learning. In response to yesterday's announcement and the change of Tiers in late December, many teachers will be setting and responding to student work away from their classrooms next week and this will significantly limit opportunities for live learning. However, our contingency planning allows for further use of recorded video and audio as we recognise that using a range of stimuli and tasks can promote student engagement in this context.

I will communicate next week how further remote learning will be delivered from the 11th January to all year groups except Year 11; who will instead be returning to school on this date. I am keen to emphasise that when Year 11 do return, they will still take their mock exams and it is vital that they use next week to consolidate their learning. Year 11 lessons and resources will be provided to support students with this important preparation. As the current situation remains fluid, all Year 11 students should take preparation for their mock exams very seriously. An amended copy of their mock exam timetable will also be sent early next week.

From Monday 18th January, remote learning for all other year groups will end; this means that from this date all year groups will be expected to be back at school.

The Academy is determined to ensure that, despite the challenges, the start of term will still enable all students to make good academic progress. Students should continue to have their school timetable in front of them to guide them through their work.



The school will also be using the start of next week to continue preparations for on-site testing for Covid-19. Further information regarding when this testing will take place will be provided early next week. I also want to reiterate that no student will be tested without clear consent from a parent or carer.

I will be on site from Monday 4th January so please do not hesitate to contact me if I can assist with any immediate concerns. The school will also be making wellbeing calls as part of our pastoral support provision throughout next week. I return to our school with the energy and determination to navigate our school community through this difficult time and I want to thank all staff at Holbrook Academy for all their incredible support and commitment.

In the meantime, I wish you all a better and brighter new year.

Kind regards,

Tom Maltby
Headteacher